

Hafa Adai!

Tinian lawyer Blanco-Maratita rejoins OAG. **PAGE 2**

Charges dismissed vs. 1 of 4 accused of assaulting DOC officer. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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'DPS should remain free from political influence, interference'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Anthony Iglecias Macaranas said DPS should remain free from political influence and interference as a paramilitary and law enforcement institution.

"As the only political appointed employee within the department, I prefer to keep it that way," said Macaranas during a confirmation hearing

See **DPS** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this screengrab photo taken from a YouTube video, Anthony Iglecias Macaranas takes his oath before answering questions from members of the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee during a confirmation hearing Wednesday last week for his appointment to serve as Department of Public Safety commissioner.

Concepcion: A lot of good things happening in tourism industry

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lot of good things are happening in the tourism industry as things are slowly picking up in the CNMI, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Speaking at a press briefing last

See **TOURISM** on Page 4



Concepcion

'HELP' sign on beach points rescuers to men stuck 9 days on remote Pacific atoll



AP

This photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard shows "HELP" spelled out with palm fronds by three stranded mariners on Pikelot Atoll, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, Monday, April 8, 2024.

By **MEAD GRUVER**
Associated Press

Three men stranded on an uninhabited Pacific island survived for more than a week and used palm fronds to spell out HELP on the beach—leading to rescue by Navy and Coast

See **HELP** on Page 4

Hundreds come out for community day

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rain or shine, nothing stopped hundreds of community members from coming out to see the display of military aircraft made accessible through a community day event organized by

See **HUNDREDS** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Hundreds of community members came out to see the display of military aircraft during the U.S. Air Force 15th Air Expeditionary Wing and Commonwealth Ports Authority's community day event last Saturday.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Son of Saipan Capt. Cooper Graft, left, returns to Saipan as an Airman and partook in last Saturday's Community Day.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Come join us at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for an evening packed with flavor, music, and creativity!

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WORLD

The Israeli military renewed warnings on Monday for Palestinians not to return to northern Gaza, a day after witnesses and medical officials said Israeli troops opened fire and killed five people among throngs of displaced residents trying to walk back to their homes in the devastated area.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

A movie weapons supervisor was sentenced to 18 months in prison in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust," during a hearing Monday in which tearful family members and friends gave testimonials that included calls for justice and a punishment that would instill greater accountability for safety on film sets.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Subway Sandwich Challenge at Taste of the Marianas

The Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting 10 contestants to eat fresh and eat plenty during the Subway Sandwich Challenge on May 4, 2024, during the 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on Saipan, the Marianas.

The Subway Eating Contest will challenge competitors to finish 15 four-inch Subway sandwiches within an hour. The Top 3 finishers will win gift certificates from Subway/Coca-Cola/Powerade/Foremost—\$300 worth for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place.

The Top 3 finishers will

also go on to compete the following Saturday, May 11, in the Oh My Grill International Food Challenge on May 11, 2024, against competitors from South Korea and Japan, each contestant facing approximately 12 lbs. of local BBQ and side dishes.

Taste of The Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA and will be held every Saturday night from 5pm-to 10pm (until 11pm on May 25) during May Tourism Month 2024 at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The festival is a gourmet's delight, offering some of the destination's best cuisine and

entertainment and featuring affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more. Entry is free.

Rules and registration form for the Subway Sandwich Challenge are available at www.mymarianas.com and at the MVA offices in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The MVA has also announced that for the first time, "Taste" food and drink vendors will also accept credit/debit cards payments at their booths. Iconic "Taste" tokens can still be

purchased at the festival with cash or credit/debit cards.

"For the convenience of customers, we are pleased to announce that all food and drink vendors will accept payment via credit or debit card this year, allowing the public to skip the token booth and get to the food and fun faster," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "At the same time, we will continue to sell and accept 'Taste' tokens, which will be sold at the festival grounds at our token booth. It's going to be an incredible May Tourism Month with 'Taste.'"

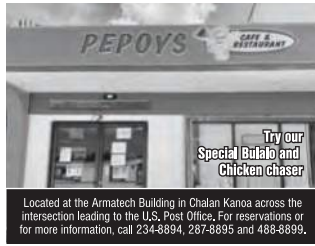
This year's festival eateries will include 38 Mitsubishi, Smokeout by Apu, Cup


Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben ki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's, Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty's BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi-Lyn's BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, Aqua Resort, Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and WSTCO.

Festival Gold Sponsors are American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital LLC and Dave


Electronics Center. Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, EST Rental, IT&E, HANMI, Jonny's Bar and Grill, M&C LLC, Lanlan Tea House, and Subway.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at atrivillagomez@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200.





Commonwealth Zoning Board Board Meeting
April 25, 2024 | 2:00 PM
DPS Training Facility (behind former BMV)
Susupe, Saipan • Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmzoning.com
POSTPONED from 4/04/24



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 04/04/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 03/07/2024 Special Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2044** – Da Green Door proposes to develop Two (2) ocean freight shipping containers measuring 42' .10" (L) x 20' (W) x 10' .5" (H) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 17 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2045** – LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House proposes to utilize Three (3) units measuring 66' 3" (L) x 23' 2" (W) on the 2nd floor of an existing two-story building for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House- Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-1-3 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0598** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail proposes to utilize one (1) unit measuring 44'-8" (L) x 15' 3" (W) on the ground floor of an existing three-story building for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0599** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge proposes to utilize one (1) unit on the ground floor of an existing three-story building measuring 44'-8" (L) x 14' 11" (W) for its "Cannabis Lounge" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Old Business

1. Proposed Text Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 – Board Review and Comments

D. New Business

1. Administrative Findings/ Recommendation on Application for Change in Zoning District/ Use – Atkins Kroll seeks to amend Beach Road Zoning District Use and Requirement to allow for Automobile Sales & Service Use

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel


1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations – Legal Review

G. Executive Session


H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes: February 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. NMHC Division Updates
- b. CDBG-DR Housing & Infrastructure Updates
- c. Financial Statements Ending March 31, 2024 – CDBG-DR & NMHC

DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. CPD Updates
- b. HAF Updates

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Homebuyer/New Construction Funding and Construction
- b. Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Funding and Construction
- c. Upgrade Account Network System

NEW BUSINESS

- a. USDA RHS and NMHC MOU
- b. Yantze Corporation Status
- c. HAF Program Amendments
- d. Garapan Annex and Other NMHC Properties

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT


EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Personnel
- b. CFO


ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

**From the
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

DATE: April 17, 2024


NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) - Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency submission from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). More information about the determination can be accessed on the DCRM website <<https://dcrm.gov.mp/>> at the following link:

NMFS's consistency determination for the Proposed Rule for Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Changes to Purse Seine Fish Aggregating Device Closure Periods (RIN 0648-BM86): <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CZ-MA-CD-NMFS-BM86-for-CNMI-DCRM.pdf>


Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the CNMI coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP).

For more information, or to submit comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI CMP, please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on April 17, 2024 and ending on May 2, 2024. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE



Proposed Plan for Marpi Point Field

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pleased to invite the community to attend a presentation and provide comments on its Proposed Plan to remediate the Marpi Point Field munitions response site (MRS) in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). The Proposed Plan has been prepared to describe the proposed remedy to reduce the risk of exposure to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) detected at the former airfield.

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be available to receive your comments and questions on the Proposed Plan during a public meeting to be held on the date, time, and location stated below. The Proposed Plan and other Marpi Point Field MRS project documents are located at JOETEN-KIYU Public Library, 2745 Insatto Street, 96950, Saipan.

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Meeting Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Meeting Location: American Memorial Park, Visitor Center Theater

You may also submit written comments concerning the Proposed Plan to:

Lori-Ann Wong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Honolulu District
FUDS Program Manager

Email: MarpiPointFUDS@usace.army.mil

Charges dismissed vs. 1 of 4 accused of assaulting DOC officer

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth has asked the Superior Court to dismiss the charges against one of the four males accused of assaulting a Department of Corrections officer at a bar back in March.

Assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas, on behalf of the Commonwealth, has filed a motion asking the Superior Court to dismiss without prejudice the charges against Hitler Weilbacher, one of the four males accused of assaulting a DOC officer at a bar back in March.

When a case is dismissed without prejudice, it cannot

be filed again.

“Upon further review of the evidence, the Commonwealth requires further investigation as to Weilbacher’s involvement. For good cause, the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the case without prejudice as to Hitler Weilbacher, and order him released from custody,” Barcinas said.

Meanwhile, two more males were identified as defendants in this case; they are a 17-year-old minor and 18-year-old Antwon David S. Indalecio.

Initially, Leroy Villagomez

Jr., 19, and Hitler Weilbacher, 27, were named defendants in this case until further investigation identified the minor and Indalecio as defendants.

Like Villagomez and Weilbacher, Indalecio also faces charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Last April 3, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed separate \$10,000 cash bails on Villagomez and Weilbacher for allegedly assaulting DOC officer Pius Yaroitemal Jr. at a bar in Garapan last March 23.

According to court documents, the Department of Public Safety received a dis-



Weilbacher

turbance in progress at around 3:14am on March 23 at Relox Bar in Garapan.

A responding police officer saw a group of individuals around Yaroitemal and were assisting in wiping blood off his face.

The officer observed Yaroitemal’s right eye was bruised, swollen, and closed with about an inch laceration above the right eyebrow and blood stains on his pants.

Yaroitemal was immediately transported to the Commonwealth Health Center’s Emergency Room.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Court grants NMC TRO vs. Zajradhara

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has granted the Northern Marianas College’s request for a temporary restraining order against Zaji Zajradhara who is accused of harassment.

Last April 3, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo granted the TRO requested by NMC on behalf of the Small Business Development Center against Zajradhara who is accused of harassing SBDC employees.

The TRO will remain in effect until April 18 as the court has scheduled a hearing on the matter for the same date.

Last April 1, NMC, through attorney Mark Scoggins, filed for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against Zajradhara for harassing SBDC employees since 2022.

Specifically, NMC wants the court to prohibit Zajradhara from communicating with the SBDC or its employees by any method and for any reason, and from coming within 500 yards of the SBDC or any of its events.

In addition, NMC is suing Zajradhara in Superior Court for undetermined damages to be proven at trial.

The reason NMC has taken legal action against Zajradhara, the lawsuit said, is because

SBDC and its employees have suffered emotional injury due to his conduct, damage to their reputations, and have been forced to spend an inordinate amount of time and energy dealing with his abusive and harassing conduct.

According to the lawsuit, Scoggins explains that Zajradhara, for years, has tried to extract funds from entities by accusing them of discrimination.

“Zajradhara is an individual who, over the last 10 or 12 years, has tried to make a living by falsely accusing entities of discrimination or retaliation, and then extracting settlements. Zajradhara’s fraudulent practices have become so prolific and pernicious that in 2019 the CNMI House of Representatives passed a House Resolution (H.R. 21-5) declaring Mr. Zajradhara ‘persona non grata’ due to his ‘ill-intended schemes in extracting funds from various businesses,” Scoggins said.

Then, in 2022, he targeted SBDC, an entity under NMC.

The lawsuit argues that Zajradhara claimed to be the owner of one or more small businesses and began demanding that the SBDC provide services to him.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DPS

From page 1

conducted by the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee Wednesday last week, for his appointment to serve as DPS commissioner.

He said DPS’ relationship with key federal and local law enforcement partners have been estranged sometimes causing serious concerns.

To address this issue, Macaranas said, he has taken steps to meet with key law enforcement officials to as-

sure them of DPS’ commitment in correcting past mistakes and building stronger partnership.

At the public hearing, Macaranas received overwhelming support from some DPS officials, heads of several law enforcement agencies, community members, and politicians.

He said he has reviewed the 2023 transition committee report prepared for the Palacios-Apatang administration, which highlights numerous challenges within the department.

As the new commissioner,

Macaranas said, he is dedicated to addressing these issues.

He said the transition committee report highlights several key issues that require immediate attention, such as the lack of basic specialized law enforcement training, unfair personnel reassignment, morale degradation, political coercion, social media outbursts that can compromise investigations, inventory of evidence and vehicles, and lack of proper documentation and disposal process.

Macaranas said other issues noted in the committee report

include security fencing at the impound lot, inadequate ammunition for firearms recertification, lack of appropriate standard-issued equipment uniforms and gears, personal overtime abuse, and over practice of staffing distribution within the Criminal Investigation Bureau and in the department in general.

To address these issues, Macaranas said he will implement initiatives immediately following his confirmation.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HUNDREDS

From page 1

the U.S Air Force 15th Air Expeditionary Wing in collaboration with the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Last Saturday, the U.S Air Force 15th Air Expeditionary Wing—who has been on island for the past two weeks for their annual Agile Reaper exercise—welcomed members of the community aboard three of the aircraft used during this year’s Agile Reaper training; namely the C-17 Globemaster III, HC-130 J Combating King II, and the F-22 Raptor.

Children and adults alike were not hindered by heavy rains or the excruciating heat, nothing was stopping them from taking advantage of the once-in-a-while opportunity to not only experience these aircrafts, but to speak with military personnel.

According to Lt. Col. Logan Sutton, last Saturday’s event was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the Saipan community.

“It was a wonderful event. Lots of people were able to come and see the planes and meet the men and women who operate them. It’s just a wonderful opportunity to connect

with the community who’ve been such wonderful hosts for the last two weeks,” he said.

Capt. Alexandra Buckley shared that they decided to expand last Saturday’s community event by a few hours because based off feedback from the community day following the Cope North exercise conducted back in February, members of the community wanted more time to see the aircrafts.

“The turnout of today’s event was fantastic. We’re really glad that everybody was able to make it out today. We wanted to expand the time from Cope North based on the feedback that we

got from that, that it wasn’t long enough. And we brought a couple more aircraft so the people could see what we’ve been flying around the area even if we haven’t primarily been operating out of Saipan,” she said.

Capt. Cooper Graft, a son of Saipan who coincidentally was deployed for the Agile Reaper exercise held in the Marianas, emotionally shared that being back on Saipan and being able to partake in the Community Day event was humbling.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HELP

From page 1

Guard aviators who spotted the sign from several thousand feet in the air.

They had embarked March 31 in a 20-foot boat with an outboard motor from Pula-wat Atoll, a small island with about an estimated 1,000 inhabitants in the Federated States of Micronesia about 1,800 miles (3,000 kilometers) east of the Philippines.

The men were fishing when they hit a coral reef, putting a hole in the boat’s bottom and

causing it to take on water, Lt. Keith Arnold said in a Coast Guard video.

A Coast Guard ship, the Oliver Henry, picked up the men Tuesday and took them back to the atoll where they had set out nine days earlier and 100 miles (160 kilometers) away, according to the statement.

They were “obviously very excited” to be reunited with their families, Coast Guard L. Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, a coordinator of the search and rescue mission, said in a Coast Guard video.

When their boat was damaged, “they knew they

weren’t going to be able to make their return home and would need to beach their vessel,” said Arnold.

On April 6, a relative reported them missing to a Coast Guard facility in Guam, saying the men in their 40s had not returned from Pikelot Atoll. A search initially covering 78,000 square miles (200,000 square kilometers) began.

The crew of a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon plane from Kadena Air Force Base in Japan spotted the three on Pikelot and dropped survival packages. The next day, a Coast Guard HC-130J Hercu-

les plane from Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii dropped a radio the men used to report they were thirsty but all right, Arnold said.

“The help sign was pretty visible. We could see it from a couple thousand feet in the air,” Arnold said.

A similar rescue of three men from Pula-wat Atoll happened on Pikelot Atoll in 2020. Those men spelled out “SOS” on the beach.

An Australian military helicopter crew landed and gave them food and water before a Micronesian patrol vessel could pick them up.

TOURISM

From page 1

week, Concepcion said Hong Kong Airlines’ first flight back to Saipan since the COVID-19 pandemic is April 29, 2024 and that they are planning to greet them upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

He said a lot of behind-the-scenes talks happened in the tourism industry and one of them was the back-and-forth with United Airlines, pushing them to make the Japan flight a daytime flight.

The managing director said United Airlines finally agreed to have that depart daytime out of Saipan and out of Narita effective May 7, 2024.

“We project them to increase arrivals from Japan because it’s just a much more convenient schedule,” Concepcion said.

With respect to Jeju Air, he said it has twice daily flights and they’ve communicated to MVA that they are looking to operate a third daily flight during high peak summer season.

Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this development shows an increase in market demand.

“We are waiting on official word from Jeju Air on their

plans for now,” he said.

The managing director also disclosed in last week’s press briefing that they also got an Economic Development Administration grant and that they are working closely with the Office of Planning and Development for the Marpi Tourist Sites improvements Project.

OPD is a co-grantee for the EDA grant.

Regarding the Taste of the Marianas next month, Concepcion said it’s going to be a big one—its 25th anniversary.

He said Taste of the Marianas is a very successful event in partnership with Hotel Association of the NMI and other stakeholders.

At this year’s event, which will begin May 4, there are 29 booths at the American Memorial Park.

“So, a lot of good stuff happening for tourism as well,” said Concepcion, adding that MVA works closely with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and especially with Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita on making sure things are turning and they have enough money to spend to market the islands because it’s highly competitive and it’s very expensive to market the CNMI out there.

262 participants take part in Lions Clubs health fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lions Clubs International, Region 2, District 204 officers and members pose for a group photo after their health fair last Sunday at the Joeten and Daidai Social Hall.

Lions Clubs International, Region 2, District 204 conducted its annual health fair at the Joeten and Daidai Social Hall, Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe last Sunday with 262 participants availing services.

Health fair participants were able to take advantage of free blood pressure check, glucose check, immunization, vision check, free haircut, massage, and free reading glasses.

In addition, some also took part in a CPR demo and given pamphlets of the CHCC Non-Communicable Diseases Program and CHCC Communicable Diseases Program Diabetes awareness program.

Participants also got a raffle ticket once they availed of the six required services stations. The health fair opened with Zumba activities headed by Xtreme Fitness 670.

During the health fair, Lions Clubs International also conducted its membership drive.

Region 1 Guam leaders joined the event headed by district governor Blanca Imbo, first vice district governor Roy Adonay, second vice district governor Ronald Hidalgo, zone chairs Lota Hidalgo and John Cruz, global extension team past district governor Lion Monito Co, global leadership team coordinator Romy

Villaluna, global service team coordinator and past district governor Herbie Perez, ways & means co-chair Naty Bui, and past district governor Atoy Banting of Region 2, Saipan. The Region 1 leaders donated all the prizes for the raffle drawing.

The Lions Clubs on Saipan would like to extend their grateful appreciation to all their service providers and sponsors: NMC Nursing Club, Hardt Eye Clinic, DFEMS, Marianas Health Services, CHCC Immunization, Non-Communicable Diseases Program, and Communicable Diseases Program, Makeover Beauty Salon (Eydie, Irma, and Evelyn), I

Fashion Salon (Babes), Creative Salon (Janah), Joann Persaud, Jenelynd Rutab, Crisanta Brien, and Ronilo Angelo Galfo offers the massage. TSL Foundation, Genpro International, Herman's Modern Bakery, Gold Ribbon, Saipan Ice & Water Company, Star Water, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy, Winchell's, Saipan SDA Dental Clinic, and Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

"We are happy with the turnout of our health fair and appreciate all the help and collaboration with all the service providers and sponsors, without their support our event would not be possible," region

chair Annamae Adaza said. She was also grateful to all the Lions members volunteers headed by their global service team vice chair Maria Javier and zone chairs Arceli Lizama, Argie Buensalido, and Marcelo Masilungan.

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can call Adaza at (670) 285-4388, Lizama at (670) 287-6758, Buensalido at (670) 789-0218, Masilungan at (670) 483-9440, and district assistant secretary Tes Marquez at (670) 483-6524. To learn more about the organization, visit their website, www.lion-sclubs.org. (PR)



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House proposes to utilize Three (3) units measuring 66' 3" (L) x 23' 2" (W) on the 2nd floor of an existing two-story building for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House- Guest House Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-1-3 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 25, 2024 (rescheduled from 04/04/24)
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: DPS Training Room (behind former Bureau of Motor Vehicles)

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 24, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on April 18, 2024 from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of the Agenda of April 18, 2024
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024
- V. New Business
 - a. Office of the Public Auditor Presentation
 - b. Self-Care Awareness & Techniques Training for CLI Self Advocates
 - c. Fundamentals of Caregiving Training
 - d. Emergency Management & Disability Awareness Training – Niagara University
 - e. IntellectAbility – Reducing Risk Training for Clinicians
 - f. Mental Health Awareness Month – May 2024
 - g. Disability Policy Seminar – May 2024
- VI. Action Items
 - a. Review and Approve the DD Basic Grant Partial Award Budget
 - b. Review and Approve the CNMI Assistive Technology Grant Partial Award Budget
 - c. Update Council Member Travel Policy
- VII. Old Business
 - a. AS UCEDD Technical Assistance Update
- VIII. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes of oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Concepcion Ulloa
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT BANK, Plaintiff,
v.
LEILANI D. ELLIS (aka LEILANI C. ELLIS), LEIANN R. ELLIS, and CLIFFORD M. CAMACHO, Defendants.

Plaintiff Pacific Islands Development Bank ("PIDB") hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the Judgment and Order dated September 12, 2023, in favor of PIDB, and the Order of Foreclosure Sale dated February 20, 2024, the auctioneer designated in the Order of Foreclosure Sale will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., the following parcel of real property:
Lot 004 D 24, Garapan, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 D 00, the original of which was registered 16 November 1970 as Document No. 650 at Land Registry, including all improvements, appurtenances, and easements used in connection therewith, all water and water rights used in connection therewith, and also the rents, issues and profits thereof ("the Property").

This is a continuation of the auction that was held on April 2, 2024, and adjourned.

TERMS OF SALE

- Auction Location.** The auction will be held at the law offices of Banes Horey Berman and Miller, LLC ("Banes Horey"), Macararas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
- Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares it closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.
- Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; reject any bid, for any reason; or expel a bidder from the auction location.
- Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone to Banes Horey at (670) 234-5684.
- Deposit.** The successful bidder shall give Banes Horey an earnest money deposit by personal check, cashier's check, or money order equal to 10.00 percent of the winning bid amount ("the Deposit"). Banes Horey will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Banes Horey before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.
- Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to PIDB by personal check, cashier's check, or money order no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will take place at Banes Horey, Macararas Building, First Floor, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, on condition that the winning bidder pay all escrow fees.
- Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS-IS WHERE-IS" condition. PIDB and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property's title, area, location, or suitability for any particular purpose, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property, including but not limited to zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands.
- Changes to Auction Terms.** Either PIDB or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.

/s/
Richard C. Miller
Auctioneer



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400020

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, MAY 10, 2024

SAIPAN AGING CENTER RESTROOM RENOVATION

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the *Saipan Aging Center Restroom Renovation* in Chinatown, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning April 10, 2024 at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Chinatown, Saipan at 10:00 AM ChST, April 25, 2024. Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than 4:30 PM ChST, May 2, 2024. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than 10:00 AM ChST, May 10, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brian Sers Nicholas Jr.
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 77Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Please take the threat of a fiscal breakdown seriously

The latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office repeat a warning made many times before: The trajectory of US government borrowing is unsustainable. Washington, fixated on this year's elections, isn't merely unwilling to act; it's ignoring the issue altogether. Just how concerned should the country be about this dereliction of duty?

Like all economic forecasts, fiscal projections are usually wrong, and the fiscal crunch that the CBO warns is coming might never happen. Equally, what lies ahead could be even scarier. A reckoning of the chances of better or worse outcomes is therefore valuable. Analysts have undertaken such an exercise for Bloomberg's Big Take, and the conclusion isn't reassuring.

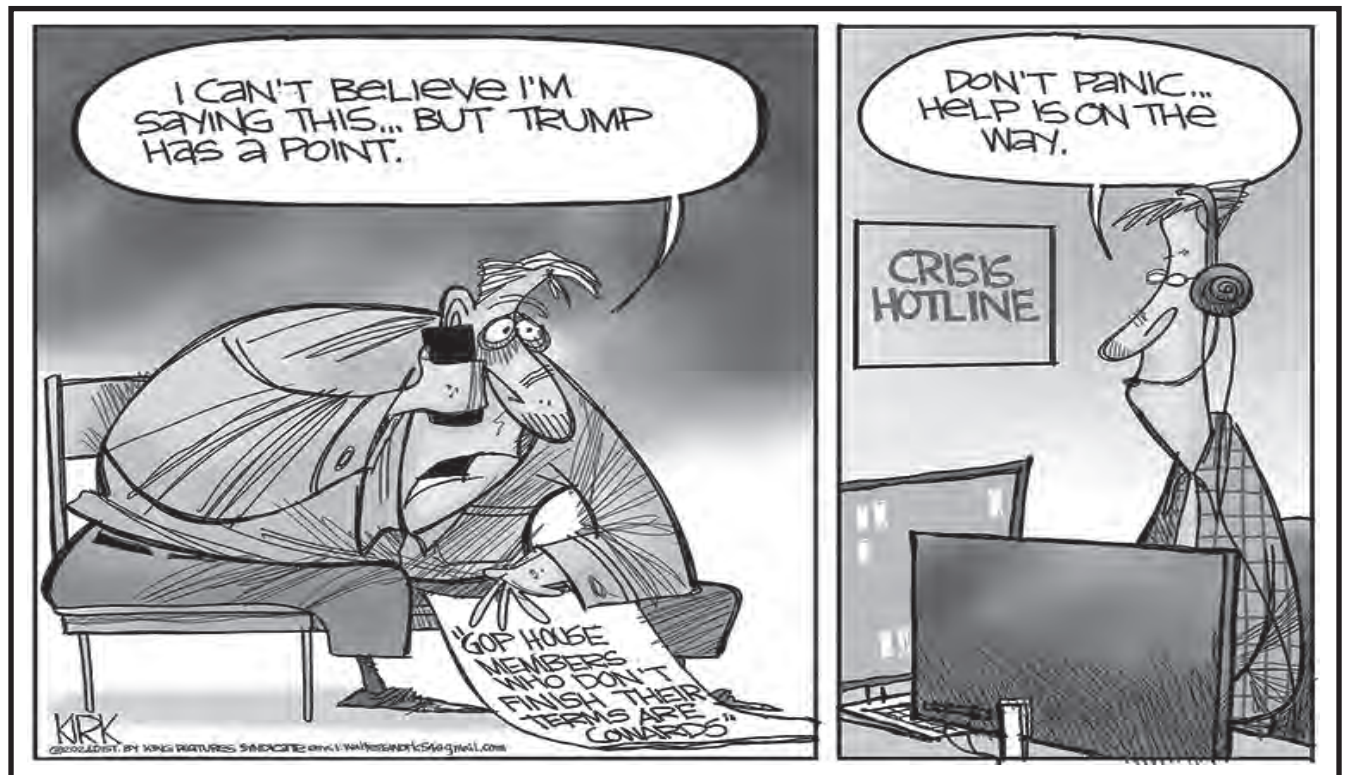
The authors, from Bloomberg Economics, take the new CBO projection as the baseline. This shows public debt rising from just under 100% of gross domestic product this year—the highest since the end of World War II—to 116% in 2034. At the outset, they note that this disturbing baseline is actually pretty optimistic in three ways.

First, it's a "current law" projection, which assumes that tax cuts enacted by Donald Trump's administration in 2017 will expire on schedule by 2025. Regardless of this year's election results, that's unlikely. Second, toward the end of the forecast period, the projection assumes falling defense spending as a share of GDP. Given current geopolitical tensions, this too looks improbable. Third, the CBO expects interest rates (which drive debt-servicing costs) to be slightly lower than financial markets currently suggest. All these assumptions are material: Plug in market-implied rates, for instance, while letting the other two assumptions stand, and the baseline debt ratio rises to 123% of GDP by 2034.

Yet those aren't the only things that might change. Using so-called stochastic simulations, the exercise examined the spread of future debt-to-GDP ratios around the agency's baseline, running a model of the economy a million times with different combinations of economic growth, inflation, budget deficits and interest rates, with patterns drawn from historical data. In nearly 90% of cases, the debt ratio keeps rising over the course of the coming decade—and in that sense is unsustainable, as in the baseline. In the worst 5% of cases, the ratio soars above 139% by 2034 and keeps on climbing.

The bottom line is simple: Take the CBO's projections seriously but not literally. The numbers won't be right, but uncertainty runs both ways, and outcomes could just as easily be worse than expected as well as better. The warning of eventual fiscal breakdown stands, and responsible politicians would be doing something about it.

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Jack Smith's latest push to get Donald Trump's Jan. 6 trial moving before the election

Special counsel Jack Smith's latest brief to the Supreme Court on Donald Trump's immunity claim strives to ensure that the justices' decision puts the Jan. 6 trial back on track, ending the detour the former president has extracted from a weak argument.

The bulk of the brief Smith filed Monday is a methodical rejection of Trump's far-fetched claims to immunity from prosecution for attempting to overturn the 2020 election. Smith and his Supreme Court specialist, Michael Dreeben, closely follow the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' persuasive, bipartisan opinion contradicting Trump on all points.

In the last few pages, however, Smith argues for the particular exigency of this case, noting that "even if a former president has some immunity from federal criminal prosecution for official acts, this prosecution should proceed."

Smith contends that Trump's attempt to thwart the peaceful transfer of power is a paradigmatic example of conduct that can't be immunized. He describes what's alleged against the former president as "a private scheme with private actors to achieve a private end"—namely, staying in power by fraud.

In what may be the brief's most consequential phrase, the special counsel insists that the case "should be remanded for trial" on the ground that whatever immunity the Constitution might provide a president, it can't shield Trump from this prosecution.

That would be dramatically different from the order that typically concludes a Supreme Court opinion. The justices normally set out governing principles of law and leave it to the lower courts to apply them to the facts, ordering a case "remanded for proceeding consistent with this opinion."

The practical difference between such a standard remand and Smith's far more unusual proposed remand for trial may sound subtle. But it's pivotal, as Smith and dozens of friend-of-the-court briefs recognize.

Smith's suggestion is a preemptive strike against an opinion that would leave room for yet another trip up and down the federal court system before a trial can begin, an opening Trump would surely exploit for further delay.

The all but certain ultimate answer to Trump's immunity claim is no: Under no plausible analysis will any court find that his conduct can't be prosecuted. But if it takes even a relatively quick series of further appellate reviews to nail that point down, it will probably squander any remaining possibility that this crucial trial will occur before the election.

The reason that the nature of the remand is a distinct risk in the case has to do with the question the court crafted for argument during the 13 days it took to act on Trump's petition for review. That extended period gave rise to speculation that some justice was writing a dissent. But it seems the justices were instead engaged in negotiating and formulating the question to be considered.

They settled on a somewhat convoluted construction asking "whether and if so to what extent" a former president enjoys immunity from criminal prosecution for potentially official acts. That strongly suggests that at least some of the justices are con-

By HARRY LITMAN
Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast and the Talking San Diego speaker series. @harrylitman



cerned that however weak Trump's claim to immunity might be, presidential immunity might be required in some cases. They may have in mind an attempted prosecution of a president for, say, bombing an adversary during a war or refusing to crack down on unlawful immigration. And they may want to cover that ground in the court's first ever consideration of criminal immunity even if it doesn't apply to Trump.

Whatever room the justices leave for theoretical presidential immunity, you can be sure that Trump will aver in the trial court that it precisely describes his case. Presumably U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan and the D.C. Circuit would make quick work of it, but in the federal courts, quick work can take a couple of months.

Given the importance of the trial schedule, the key practical question is whether the court focuses solely on Trump's case or endorses immunity in other instances. Smith's gambit is a fallback that would let the court order the trial to proceed even if its opinion extends to broader principles of immunity.

The oral argument could also expose a fundamental divide among the justices about potential immunity unrelated to Trump's conduct. That would suggest that the court will issue multiple opinions after engaging in a back-and-forth that would itself likely eat up several weeks.

The amicus briefs in the case divide along similar lines. The most prominent ones in Smith's favor advise the court to simply affirm the D.C. Circuit's rejection of Trump's claim without venturing into possible instances of immunity that are not remotely presented here. The briefs on Trump's side tend to argue for some immunity in some cases, a result that would likely give rise to a more complicated remand.

To date, the court has not seemed very sensitive to the political imperative of a verdict that gives voters a piece of critical information before the November election: whether one of the candidates is guilty of a scheme to subvert the last one. That is in stark contrast to the court's obvious speed in deciding Trump's eligibility for the Colorado ballot before the state's primary. And the court has shown similar haste in politically supercharged cases before, among them Bush vs. Gore.

The justices' apparent indifference to the need for speed and clarity in this case is a shame. If they continue merely proclaiming the law as usual, letting the political chips fall where—and, more importantly, when—they may, it will be an unnecessary boon to Trump and a loss for the country.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Council weighs in on price council proposed in HB 23-102

The 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council shared with House Committee on Commerce & Tourism chair Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) an alternative approach to price control proposed in House Bill 23-102 by a new office of price council directly under the governor's office.

The local municipal council said that H.B. 23-102 takes the CNMI back more than 50 years to June 1973, when the nation had its historic first price control issued from the White House as the U.S. president Richard M. Nixon went on national television to inform the nation of his executive order freezing prices and wages throughout the United States for 60 days, and how the CNMI followed similar pathway 23 years later in 1996 with CNMI Public Law 10-17, finding "a serious and continuing problem with retail stores raising the prices of certain vital items during and immediately after typhoons and other similar natural disasters."

Like Nixon's price and wage freeze via executive order and the NMI price freeze by statute, the two approaches have one thing in common: both are time constrained and their effect limited in their application. On the one hand, Nixon needed time to correct the imbalance on supply and demand of commodities caused in part by diminished supply due to increased demand for U.S. products and goods abroad. The CNMI, on the other hand, empowered the governor with statutory authority to freeze commodity prices during and after natural disasters.

The council added that 10 years later from 1996 in 2016, the CNMI authorized another fix by statute over an attempt to control commodity pricing in CNMI Public Law 19-62, waiving the wharfage fees for shipping to Tinian and Rota on imported merchandise unloaded on Saipan. Expectedly, P.L. 19-62 resulted in lost revenues for the Commonwealth Ports Authority that year (2016) at nearly \$20,000 and continued in 2017 and 2018 at \$160,000 and \$141,000 respectively and over \$160,325 in June 2019 the total of which was nearly half a million dollars of revenues lost to CPA.

H.B. 23-102 indeed openly admits that despite attempts to lower unreasonable price in waiving inter-island wharfage fees, the average cost of commodities continues to rise, not a surprising revelation, because former CPA board member Barrie Toves admitted in 2016 that "the prices on Rota have still escalated despite the waiver.

A Tinian businessman during the early implementation stages of P.L. 19-62 also complained about arbitrary pricing because "Tinian's only inter-island shipping company has no scale to weigh items for shipment nor does it have a measurement scale or chart to verify volume."

Earlier in the year in January, an article featured in KUAM titled, "What is the cost of doing business on Rota...and is it worth it?" reporter Thomas Manglona conducted interviews with Rota businesses which highlighted how "shipping is definitely one of the biggest issues here" and how the status quo has become costly and labor intensive, because "we (Rota) don't have the ideal marina setup." The Rota businessman added the lack of one-stop business licensing and permitting available in Rota, in addition to the delays in issuing licenses by Saipan as two red flags to starting new business and just all the taxes and fees.

This month, Rota businessman Pedro Dela Cruz lodged a complaint on the sudden unexpected rate increase the Rota Terminal and Transfer Company imposed for stevedoring services and equipment at the Rota port will create economic chaos' on Rota for crane reportedly assessed at \$500 per hour and forklift \$325 per hour.

CPA director Leo Tudela reportedly shared the concerns raised by Rota businessman Pedro Dela Cruz, adding "CPA will see what it can do to address concerns regarding Rota Terminal & Transfer's stevedoring service rates." (A definite timetable on when CPA intends to resolve the matter was indicated).

Given the layers of issues and concerns affecting the cost of living and cost of doing business on Rota and Tinian, it begs the question as to whether H.B. 23-102 adequately addresses the unique challenges confronting the two islands on escalating commodity prices and shipping-related service costs existing businesses have been challenged with, in addition to Rota's inability to approve and issue business licenses and construction related permits.

Is H.B. 23-102 a solution to a situation caused by escalating commodity prices and extraordinary costs for stevedoring services especially on Rota, which ultimately dampens an already struggling municipal economy coupled by the unique challenges Rota businesses complain over the lack of authority to process and issue business license or development permits, for instance?

It should be recalled what Nixon warned 50 years ago on price control: "Let there be no mistake: If our economy is to remain dynamic, we must never slip into the temptation of imagining that in the long run, controls can substitute for a free economy or permit us to escape the need for discipline in fiscal and monetary policy. We must not let controls become a narcotic; we must not become addicted."

In making his point, Nixon emphasized that "Congress should

give the president authority to reduce tariffs in selected cases in order to increase supplies of scarce goods and thereby hold down their prices. This action will help on such scarce items.... And in particular, the tariff we now have on imported meat (for example) should be removed."

The current pricing controversy in the CNMI further heightened the recent flare up over United Airlines airfare on a 30-minute hop from Saipan to Guam, for example, a situation similar to the shipping and related costing on ocean transportation to Tinian and Rota that appear as chokehold to Rota and Tinian residents on store shelves with commodity price fluctuations and apparent predatory pricing on shipping services, thus making H.B. 23-102 a potential remedy.

A price council proposed in H.B. 23-102, however, is far from preventing the avalanche in escalating commodity prices on store shelves, or the outrageous shipping-related service cost that was envisioned when Public Law 19-62 was enacted in 2016 waiving wharfage on Tinian and Rota from Saipan, which ultimately resulted in lost revenues to CPA and also emptied the pockets of Rota and Tinian residents from a host of shipping-induced charges on commodity pricing in retail stores.

The alternative remedy to the price council envisioned in H.B. 23-103 as the local council leadership sees it is to amend the existing statute governing the Department of Commerce's Enforcement and Compliance Division and add to its statutory duty and responsibility the regular monitoring and enforcement not only of activities related to weights and measures, but also commodity price and service compliance with applicable regulations on prices, weights and measures standards, so as to prevent unfair and deceptive dealing by pricing, weights or measures, including the description of any commodity of service advertised, packaged, sold and/or purchase, and promote compliance on applicable or reasonable uniformity (e.g. markup versus margin pricing) on prices, weights and measures in all aspects of commerce and business requirements throughout the CNMI and those of the states and federal agencies.

The council's proposed amendment provides a wholistic approach to commodity pricing in store shelves and shipping-related service charges at the port of entry on Rota and Tinian to be under the jurisdiction and authority of the Department of Commerce, in order to promote a seamless, coordinated, and comprehensive approach. It would, in other words, enable Commerce to work hand-and-hand within the same Commerce department involving the Central Statistics Division tasked by law (in Public Law 7-35) with compiling and streamlining all statistical information for the CNMI and federal user agencies, in addition to working on the decennial census reports, economic indicator reports, consumer price index (CPI), and other surveys and censuses conducted over the years by and for the Commonwealth, and in tandem with commerce's comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS).

Of greater relevance when it comes to pricing is the jurisdiction by the statistics division over the CNMI's consumer price

index (CPI), which the CPI deals with the average price change of fixed market baskets on certain goods and services compiled, analyzed, and regularly reported to stakeholders, including the governor, the legislature, and federal agencies, not less the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, the Northern Marianas Housing Authority, and the business community.

Per the council, the enforcement and compliance division in the local commerce should also be statutorily mandated together with the CNMI office of consumer counsel in the attorney general's office to collaborate and work cooperatively in investigating complaints of unfair price practices and for the consumer counsel take the lead in taking appropriate actionable remedies at law or in equity, and authorized to include appropriate federal agencies, when needed or required to do so.

The Office of Consumer Counsel is statutorily designated in Public Law 6-46, and as amended, to be within the Office of the Attorney General to coordinate preventive and remedial consumer protection programs of the Commonwealth government, and to prosecute those who violate the consumer protection laws of the Commonwealth, as the office advances the interests of consumers and the effective functioning of free enterprise market economy by educating the consumer about the choices available in the marketplace; protecting the consumer from the use of deceptive methods, acts, or practices in the sale of goods or services; fostering competition; and promoting effective representation of consumers' interests in all branches and levels of government.

It behooves upon the Committee of Commerce and Tourism, therefore, to assign the responsibility and task enumerated in H.B. 23-102 to the existing Department of Commerce's Enforcement and Compliance, by statutorily granting to it the additional responsibility and charge for monitoring and enforcing not only weights and measures activities it presently is assigned to, but also take on the responsibility for commodity price and service compliance with applicable regulations on prices, weights and measures standards.

In this way, unfair and deceptive dealing on price, weight or measure, including description of any commodity or service advertised, packaged, sold and/or purchase is prevented. Moreover, this approach would ensure compliance on applicable or reasonable uniformity on prices, weights and measures in all aspects of commerce and business requirements throughout the CNMI and those of the states and federal agencies. This collaborative and symbiotic working partnership among the central statistics division especially on consumer price indexing with the commerce enforcement and compliance division in cooperative relationship with the office of consumer counsel at the office of attorney general should prove formidable in curbing predatory commodity pricing and abusive service cost indexing throughout the CNMI.

17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

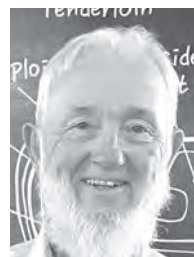
Lyrics from lullabies

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



JOHN O'DREAMS (Irish Lullaby)

Melody by Tchaikovsky / words Bill Caddick

"When midnight comes good people, homeward tread
Seek now your blankets and your feather bed
Home is the rover, his journey's over
Yield up the nighttime to old John of Dreams
Across the hills the sun has gone astray
Tomorrow's cares are many dreams away
The stars are flying, your candle's burning
Yield up the nighttime to old John of Dreams
Both man and master in the night are one
All things are equal when the day is done
The prince and the ploughman, the slave and the freeman
All find their comfort in old John of Dreams

When sleep it comes and dreams come running clear
The hawks of morning cannot reach you here
Sleep is a river, flow on forever
And for your boatman choose old John of Dreams."

CONNEMARA CRADLE SONG

By John Francis Waller

"On the wings of the wind o'er the dark rolling deep,
Angels are coming to watch over thee,
Angels are coming to watch o'er thy sleep.
So list to the wind coming over the sea.

Chorus (2x after each verse):

Hear the wind blow, love, hear the wind blow
Lean your head over and hear the wind blow

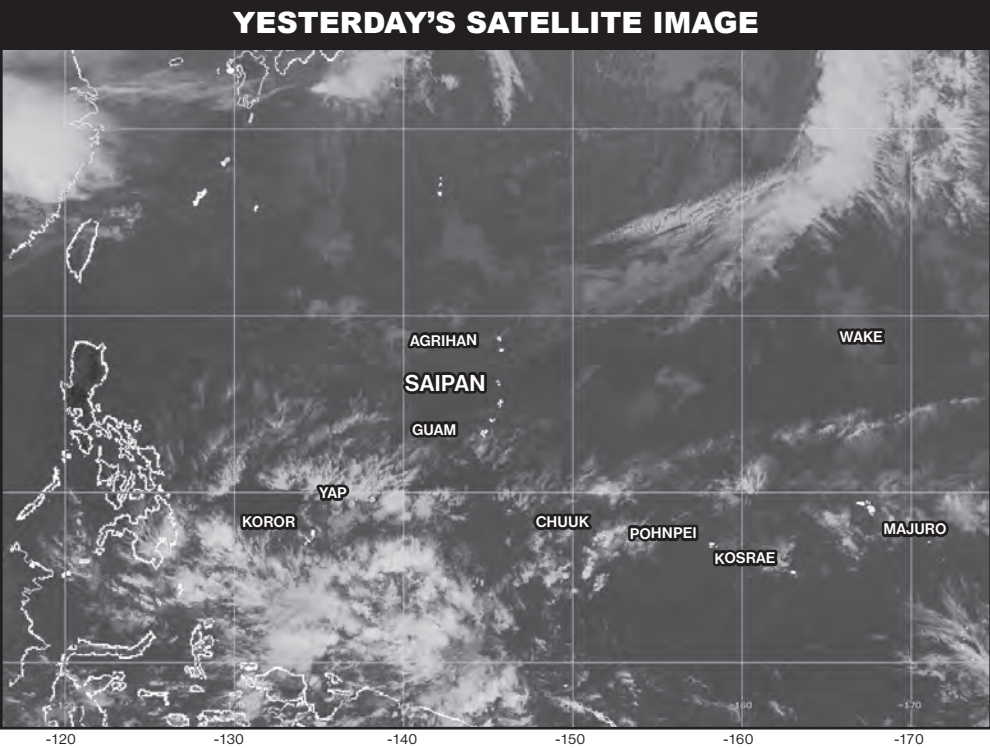
The currachs are sailing way out on the blue,
Laden with herring of silvery hue,
O silver the herring, silver the sea –
Soon there'll be silver for baby and me.

The currachs tomorrow will stand on the shore
And daddy goes sailing, a-sailing no more.
The nets will be drying, the nets heaven blessed.
And safe in my arms, contented he'll rest."

*Lullabies are of course meant to be sung. These two above have lovely melodies you can hear on:
LULLABIES FOR LOVE
A Celtic Collection to benefit
One Home Many Hopes, Kenya. CD published 2011.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Mostly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Breezy. Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:13 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Seas continue to hold in the 6 to 7 foot range, slightly lower near the western coastlines. Winds are under 15 mph, with an estimated water temperature of 82 to 84 degrees based on satellite data.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Yap	Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:44 AM	1:15 PM
Thursday	-	2:25 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	3:02 AM	2:53 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	3:40 PM
Sunday	-	4:09 AM	4:25 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 59°	
Beijing	Fair	76° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Fair	86° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 71°	
London	Sunny	64° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Manila	Fair	96° / 80°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°	
Miami	Fair	78° / 71°	
New York	Clear	79° / 58°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Busan	Sunny	68° / 57°	
Rome	Sunny	70° / 48°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 52°	
Tokyo	Fair	77° / 62°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:28 AM	High Tide	1.69	
10:10 AM	Low Tide	1.21	
2:02 PM	High Tide	1.41	
9:37 PM	Low Tide	0.27	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily		UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5		UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily		PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau		UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily		UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily		UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam		UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau		7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)					INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily		7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily		TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily		7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

SCS Art and Young Writers Showcase at Crowne Plaza

Come join us at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for an evening packed with flavor, music, and creativity!

Join us at Mari Bar's Loco Local BBQ Street Market with the chance to view an exclusive Art Show and Young Writers Showcase by the talented students at Saipan Community School on Thursday, April 18, from 5pm to 9:30pm.

Savor our mouthwatering Loco Local BBQ set, complete with red rice, potato salad, savory pork BBQ sticks, crispy shrimp rolls, and a variety of delectable sauces, including the island favorite fina'denni and denanche, all for just \$12 per set.

Our Loco Sticks with the option of either two BBQ sticks or four pieces of crispy shrimp rolls are the perfect quick bite at only \$6. And to quench your thirst, explore our refreshing beverage selection, with drink specials available.

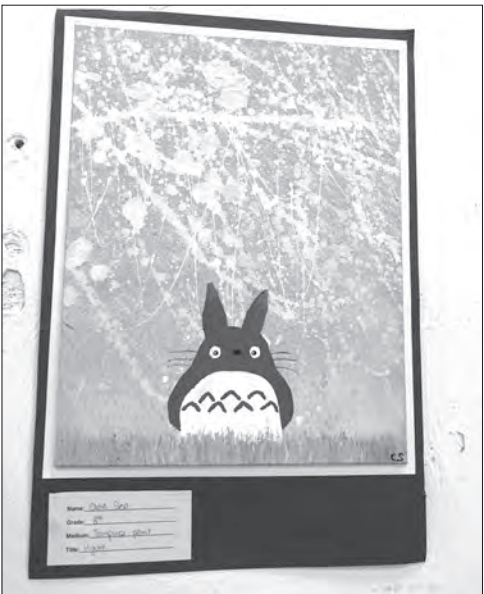
Be inspired by the creative



Experience the incredible talent of Saipan Community School students as they display their dynamic art pieces and imaginative writing works this Thursday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.



Saipan Community School's Art Show and Young Writers Showcase will be held Thursday, April 18, from 5pm to 9:30pm



Cloeie Seo's painting using tempura paint.

For reservations and inquiries, reach out to us via email at restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call (670) 234-6412. For the latest updates, follow us on Instagram and Facebook @crowneplaza-resortsaipan. Follow Saipan

Community School @saipan-communityschool on Instagram. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support and celebrate the arts in our community while wining and dining delicious food and drinks. Crowne Plaza Resort

Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. (PR)



An SSC student's depiction of Vincent van Gogh's Starry Starry Night.

expressions of Saipan's youth as the Saipan Community School proudly showcases student artwork from 5:30pm to 7pm in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Experience the incredible talent of SCS students as they display their dynamic art pieces and imaginative writing works. Mark your calendars and join us for this exciting opportunity to celebrate the arts in our community while indulging in the last day of the Loco Local BBQ Street market experience at Mari Bar, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

It's Tax Day and your refund may be big this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—On this Tax Day, refunds are looking a bit bigger for taxpayers.


According to the latest IRS statistics, the average income tax refund so far this season is \$3,011, up \$123 from last year. Two out of three taxpayers expect to receive a refund.

The IRS is promoting the customer service improvements the agency rolled out since receiving tens of bil-

lions in new funding dollars through Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act. Getting refunds out faster—to some people in just over a week—is part of the promotion.

So far, the IRS has delivered more than \$200 billion in refunds through early April, and the latest agency numbers show that 101 million people have filed returns this tax season.

At least one prominent person did not get a refund. President Joe Biden on Monday released the tax returns he filed with his wife, Jill, showing that he still owed the IRS \$334 and the state of Delaware \$1,480. But Jill Biden qualified for a \$433 refund from Virginia, where she teaches. The Biden earned \$619,976 and paid a federal income tax rate of 23.7%.



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge proposes to utilize one (1) unit on the ground floor of an existing three-story building measuring 44'-8" (L) x 14' 11" (W) for its "Cannabis Lounge" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 25, 2024
(rescheduled from 04/04/24)


Time: 2:00 pm

Place: DPS Training Room (behind former Bureau of Motor Vehicles)

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 24, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail proposes to utilize one (1) unit measuring 44'-8" (L) x 15' 3" (W) on the ground floor of an existing three-story building for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

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/s/
Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Da Green Door

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Da Green Door proposes to develop Two (2) ocean freight shipping containers measuring 42' .10" (L) x 20' (W) x 10' .5" (H) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 17 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 25, 2024
(rescheduled from 04/04/24)

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: DPS Training Room (behind former Bureau of Motor Vehicles)

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 24, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

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/s/
Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

World

Israeli military tells Palestinians not to return to north Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli military renewed warnings on Monday for Palestinians not to return to northern Gaza, a day after witnesses and medical officials said Israeli troops opened fire and killed five people among throngs of displaced residents trying to walk back to their homes in the devastated area.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven from the north after Israeli forces first launched their offensive there soon after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. In the months of fighting since, vast parts of the north have been flattened, including much of Gaza City. After months of Israeli restric-

tions on aid to the north, some 300,000 who remained there are on the brink of famine, according to the United Nations.

Still, many Palestinians have wanted to go back, saying they are sick of the conditions they endured in displacement. For months, families have been crammed into tent camps, schools-turned-shelters and homes of relatives throughout the south of the Gaza Strip. Some also fear remaining in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost town, as Israel says it plans to attack it eventually to root out Hamas.

Late Monday, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant met with top officials to work on preparations for the Rafah invasion,

his office said. The international community, including the United States, have voice strong objections to the planned offensive, saying it will endanger the estimated 1.4 million Palestinians sheltered in Rafah.

Gallant's office said Monday's meeting included plans for evacuating civilians and expanding deliveries of food and medical equipment to Gaza.

Israel, which has reduced the number of its troops across Gaza, has repeatedly rejected calls to let Palestinians back to the north of the territory, saying Hamas militants continue to operate there. The military says it has loosened the mili-

tants' control over the north, but it is still carrying out airstrikes and raids against what it says are reorganizing militants. Last month, Israeli troops raided Gaza's main hospital, Shifa, in two weeks of fighting that left the facility in ruins.

Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that Palestinians should stay in southern Gaza because the north is a "dangerous combat zone."

People appeared to be heed-

ing the new warning, especially after Sunday's shootings.

On Sunday, thousands of Palestinians tried going up Gaza's coastal road back to the north, most on foot and some on the backs of donkey carts. Some said they had heard rumors that Israeli troops were allowing people to enter the north.

"We want our homes. We want our lives. We want to return, whether with a truce or without a truce," said Um Nidhal Khatab, who was among

those trying to return home.

Several witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire as the crowds neared checkpoints at Wadi Gaza, the line that the military has drawn separating northern Gaza from the rest of the territory. Five people were killed and 54 wounded, according to officials at nearby Awda Hospital in central Gaza, where the casualties were brought.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment. It was not clear what triggered the shooting.

IAEA warns that attacks on nuclear plant in Russian-controlled Ukraine put world at risk

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and Ukraine on Monday traded blame before the United Nations Security Council for the attacks on Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said have put the world "dangerously close to a nuclear accident."

Without attributing blame, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said his agency has been able to confirm three attacks against the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant since April 7.

"These reckless attacks must cease immediately," he told the

Security Council. "Though, fortunately, they have not led to a radiological incident this time, they significantly increase the risk ... where nuclear safety is already compromised."

The remote-controlled nature of the drones that have attacked the plant means that it is impossible to definitively determine who launched them, Grossi told reporters after the meeting.

"In order to say something like that, we must have proof," he said. "These attacks have been performed with a multitude of drones."

Zaporizhzhia sits in Rus-

sian-controlled territory in southeastern Ukraine and has six nuclear reactors.

Fears of a nuclear catastrophe have been at the forefront since Russian troops occupied the plant shortly after invading in February 2022. Continued fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces—as well as the tense supply situation at the plant—have raised the specter of a disaster.

Ukraine and its allies on Monday again blamed Russia for dangers at the site, with the United States saying, "Russia does not care about these risks."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bodies of 3-year-old girl and her mother recovered after Indonesia landslides that killed 20

TANA TORAJA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers recovered the bodies of a 3-year-old girl and her mother who were the last victims still missing after landslides on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island that killed 20 people, authorities said Tuesday. Both of them were found close to each other, local rescue chief Mexianus Bekabel said. Mud loosened by torrential rain poured from surrounding hills onto four houses Saturday at South Makale village in the Tana Toraja district of South Sulawesi province, said local police chief Gunardi Mundu. He said a family gathering was being held in one of the houses when the landslide hit. Fog and rain had hampered the search for the victims. Dozens of soldiers, police and volunteers had joined the search in the remote hillside villages of Makale and South Makale, Mundu said. Rescuers early Sunday managed to pull out two injured people, including an 8-year-old girl, and rushed them to a hospital. Tana Toraja has many popular tourist attractions, including traditional

houses and wooden statues of bodies buried in caves, known as tau-tau. Seasonal downpours cause frequent landslides and floods in Indonesia, a chain of 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or fertile flood plains.

Marcos says he won't give US access to more local military bases

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president said Monday his administration has no plan to give the United States access to more Philippine military bases and stressed that the American military's presence in several camps and sites so far was sparked by China's aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office in 2022, allowed American forces and weapons access to four additional Philippine military bases, bringing to nine the number of sites where U.S. troops can rotate indefinitely under a 2014 agreement. The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of security alliances in the region to better counter China, a move that dovetails with Philippine efforts to shore up its external defense, especially in the South China

Sea. Marcos' decision last year alarmed China because two of the new sites were located just across from Taiwan and southern China. Beijing accused the Philippines of providing American forces with staging grounds, which could be used to undermine its security. "The Philippines has no plans to create any more bases or give access to any more bases," Marcos said, without elaborating in response to a question during a forum with Manila-based foreign correspondents. Asked if he was concerned that allowing the U.S. military access to Philippine bases had provoked Chinese actions in the South China Sea, Marcos said the presence of U.S. troops was in response to China's moves. "These are reactions to what has happened in the South China Sea, to the aggressive actions that we have had to deal with," he said, mentioning Chinese coast guard vessels using water cannons and lasers to deter Philippine ships from the area Beijing claims as its own. He also mentioned collisions, blocking of Filipino fishermen and sea barriers to block ships from Scarborough Shoal, which lies in the Philippine economic zone.

A Beautiful Memory, Always Loved, Never Forgotten

† Margaret Quitano Sablan McQuay

Lovingly known as "Marge or Adig"
January 26, 1950 - March 23, 2024



FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS

Faith, hope and love are the virtues of our Christian lives and we do our utmost best to live in them daily.

As we begin to live our lives and learn to cope with the absence of our Dearly Beloved † Margaret Quitano Sablan McQuay, we her family, are sincerely and forever grateful to our many families and friends who stood by us through our most difficult time of our lives.

The pain of loss is difficult to endure, but the outpouring support, kindness, words of comfort and most of all the unconditional love which embraced us from led us to the path of light and to believe that our Dearly Beloved is now resting peacefully in God's care.

Your presence at the daily masses of intention, and most especially on her funeral day deeply touched our hearts and assured us of how much our Dearly Beloved is loved and, in her silent and special way, is whispering her appreciation.

To one and all, dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and as we part our ways, we fervently pray that God's graces and blessings will forever be upon us and may each awakening day bring us closer to God and be thankful for all that we are blessed with and live each day for the greater glory of God.

The Children and Families of
† Margaret Quitano Sablan McQuay

Life & Style

Gun supervisor for ‘Rust’ movie gets 18 months in prison

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A movie weapons supervisor was sentenced to 18 months in prison in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film “Rust,” during a hearing Monday in which tearful family members and friends gave testimonials that included calls for justice and a punishment that would instill greater accountability for safety on film sets.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed was convicted in March by a jury on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the death of cinematographer



AP
Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, center, sits with her attorney Jason Bowles and paralegal Carmella Sisneros during her sentencing hearing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Monday, April 15, 2024.

Halyna Hutchins and has been held for more than a month at a county jail on the outskirts of Santa Fe. Prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of “Rust,” where it

was expressly prohibited, and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols.

Gutierrez-Reed was unsuccessful in her plea for a lesser sentencing, telling the judge she was not the monster that people have made her out to be and had tried to do her best on the set despite not having “proper time, resources and staffing.” Gutierrez-Reed plans to appeal the judgement and sentence, defense attorney

Jason Bowles said in an email.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer for “Rust,” was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal on a movie set outside Santa Fe in October 2021 when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He is scheduled for trial in July at a courthouse in Santa Fe.

Attorneys for rapper Travis Scott say he was not responsible for safety at deadly Astroworld concert

HOUSTON (AP)—Attorneys for rap star Travis Scott argued in court Monday that he should be dismissed from hundreds of lawsuits filed over the deadly 2021 Astroworld festival, saying he was not responsible for safety planning and watching for possible dangers at the Houston event.

But attorneys for relatives of one of the 10 people killed during a massive crowd surge at the festival said Scott ignored safety concerns and threatened to release online the personal information of anyone who would cancel the event over safety concerns.

Stephen Brody, an attorney for Scott, said the rapper remains “devastated” and “heartbroken” by the tragic

events of Nov. 5, 2021, when authorities and festival organizers tried to shut down the show and stop the surge.

The families of the 10 people who died, as well as hundreds who were injured, sued Scott and Live Nation—the festival’s promoter—as well as dozens of other individuals and entities.

During a court hearing before state District Judge Kristen Hawkins, Brody argued that Scott and his touring and production company, XX Global, should be dismissed from the case. They said his duties and responsibilities related to the festival were outlined as performing, marketing, curating talent for the event, providing for his own per-

sonal security and approving all creative matters involving the festival.

“And that’s it,” Brody said.

During the concert, Scott, whose real name is Jacques Bermon Webster II, did stop his performance four times to check on issues he saw in the crowd, including some people who appeared to be in distress, according to Brody.

“Did he have show pause authority?” Hawkins asked Brody.

He could stop performing and wait to see if an issue of concern had been resolved, Brody said.

But Brody added the festival’s organizers as well as Houston police also had the ability to turn on the lights or cut off the sound if they thought something was wrong.

Paris Hilton backs California bill to bring more transparency to youth treatment facilities

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Paris Hilton joined California state lawmakers Monday to push for legislation aimed at cracking down on the industry that cares for troubled teens by requiring more transparency from youth treatment facilities.

The bill supported by the Hilton Hotel heiress and media personality aims to pry open information on how short-term residential facilities for youth dealing with substance abuse and behavioral issues use disciplinary methods such as restraints or seclusion against minors. It would require such centers to notify parents and the state any time they use restraints or seclusion rooms for minors. It’s authored by Republican state Sen. Shannon Grove and Democratic state Sens. Aisha Wahab and Angelique Ashby.

On Monday, Hilton testified in a legislative hearing in sup-



AP
Hotel heiress and media personality Paris Hilton, left, and state Sen. Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield right, listen as supporters speak in support of Grove’s proposed bill calling on more transparency for youth treatment facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services, during a hearing of the Senate Human Services Committee in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, April 15, 2024.

port of the bill, detailing her harrowing abuse as a teenager at a facility in Utah that she said still haunts her and urging lawmakers to take actions before more children have to suffer similar treatment.

“Our current system de-

signed to reform, in some horrific instances, does the exact opposite,” Hilton told lawmakers Monday. “It breaks spirits and instills fear, and it perpetuates a cycle of abuse. But today, we have the power to change that.”

Romance between relatives upsets pair's close friends

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s best friend, “Kevin,” lost his wife three years ago. He’s currently in a relationship with his niece (his deceased brother’s daughter). Kevin is in his 60s; she’s in her 50s. We find this disgusting and do not condone it. They are both from Portugal. Is this acceptable in other countries?

We have tried to discuss it with him; he said he doesn’t care what we think. Kevin tries to plan things for all of us as couples, and we don’t want to be in their company. Am I wrong? I have known his niece for several years, and I don’t want to be unkind, but I just cannot be around them. His wonderful wife is turning over in her grave.

SCANDALIZED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SCANDALIZED: This type of incestuous relationship is not specifically prohibited under Portuguese law, nor is it prohibited in the state of New Jersey. If you don’t wish to socialize with this couple, you are not compelled to do it. Your husband can do it without you if he wishes.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: A childhood friend generously invited me to stay at his home for a visit. We had a great time. A few days after I left, he texted me that something expensive was missing from his home and asked if I knew anything about it. I told him I was sorry to hear the bad news and I don’t know what happened.

He has now blocked me on all forms of communication. I suppose he thinks I had something to do with the missing item. I wonder if I could have handled the situation differently. Should I have perhaps offered to compensate him for at least part of the value of the missing item despite not being responsible for its disappearance? I don’t want to appear to admit fault, but I’m sad that our friendship has apparently ended over this.

INNOCENT IN FLORIDA

DEAR INNOCENT: If you offer to compensate your host, it WILL look like an admission of guilt. Don’t do it. If you feel you must say anything at this point, write the person a LETTER expressing that not only are you sorry he is missing the item in question, but also that its disappearance has ended what was, to you, a treasured friendship. Period.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a gun owner. I am not. My mother sometimes stays over and sleeps in his office, which doubles as a guest room. My husband tells me before my mother goes into the room to sleep that I should make sure the gun is safely put away, in case she snoops around and finds it and an accident happens. I told him that is HIS responsibility as a gun owner, not mine. I also told him my mother won’t snoop in his workstation.

He continues to tell me to check it “just in case,” and I repeat that it’s not my responsibility. Who’s responsible to check if the

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



gun is properly put away, my husband or me?
NOT MY TASK IN THE EAST

DEAR N.M.T.: You are both responsible to ensure the safety of your guests. Your husband’s gun should be safely locked in a gun case to prevent anyone from shooting themselves in the foot (or you or your husband if a bullet should accidentally go through a wall). Because your husband shirks his responsibility, in order to protect your mother, you should do it.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

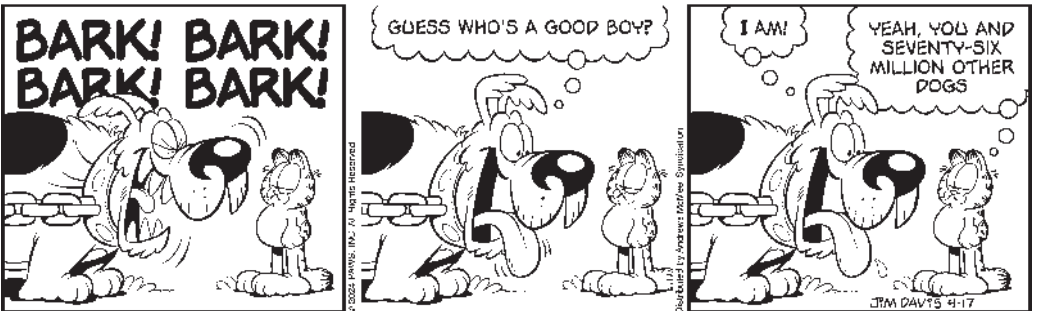
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Dyna-mite" band
4 Stand — (hold firm)
7 Donald Duck's nephew
8 Photo book
10 Daughter of Lear
11 Sheep sounds
13 Piece performed by Yo-Yo Ma
16 Pub order
17 Tennis great Djokovic
18 Physics particle
19 Memory unit
20 Title for Helen Mirren
21 Motif
23 Reads quickly
25 Alum
26 Cam-bodia neighbor

DOWN

1 "Taps" instru-ment
2 Pond duck
3 The-saurus word
4 First course of action
5 Taken — (sur-prised)
6 Tooth-paste holder
7 Scoun-drel
8 Higher than
9 Robin's love
10 TV pioneer
12 Molecule parts
14 Doves' home
15 In-separable
19 Founda-tion
20 Wagner's "—"
21 Samples
22 Apollo Theater locale
23 Palm starch
24 Mother Superior's home
25 "So frus-trating!"
26 Cheery tunes
28 Nullifies
29 Twine fiber
30 Lawman
31 Billions of years
32 Future flower
34 Roman 62
35 North Carolina university

Solution time: 23 mins.

I	M	A	C	S	F	F	R	F	S
K	I	L	O	U	M	S	E	G	A
F	I	I	S	E	M	P	A	N	A
A	L	A	M	E	D	A	M	O	D
I	T	E	H	A	I				
G	R	A	C	E	S	T	R	A	D
O	O	P	A	R	T	H	I	S	
B	E	R	M	U	D	A	N	E	I
O	R	S	F	I	B				
W	R	I	N	G	M	L	L	I	N
H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A	K	E
A	S	C	P	I	T	E	R	A	T
T	H	E	A	H	V	S	O	N	S

Yesterday's answer 4-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Rooney Mara, 39; Jennifer Garner, 52; Liz Phair, 57; Sean Bean, 65.

Happy Birthday: Engage in what makes you happy. Choose to explore possibilities, live in the moment and enjoy what life has to offer. Broaden your awareness, skills and relationships with people who share your interests. Expansion and exploration will encourage new beginnings and give you a better understanding of your purpose while showing you how to quench your thirst for knowledge and new solutions. Your numbers are 6, 19, 22, 28, 31, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Set your sights on something you like, and be relentless in making it yours. Your enthusiasm will be infectious, making convincing others to take on your responsibilities easy. Trust your instincts and turn your dream into a reality. When opportunity knocks, open the door. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Direct your energy wisely. Refuse to let what others do lead to a flurry of reactions that will put you in a vulnerable position. Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself until you think matters through. Control and patience are your best options. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more time and effort into personal gain. Educational pursuits and updating your look and appeal to suit your target audience or occupation will boost confidence and push you in the right direction. Domestic improvements will require cutting your losses and doing what's best for you. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't quit prematurely. Look at all your options and reconfigure the best way to get what you want. Use persuasive tactics and incentives,

and you'll be surprised who stands by your side. Think big, embrace change and be willing to explore the possibilities. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Preparation is everything. Don't expect things to come to you; prepare to fight for what you want. If you want it, go after it with a vengeance. Strength, courage and looking the part will separate you from the competition and give you additional confidence and showmanship to go the distance. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Follow through, embrace change and create opportunities that offer a new lease on life. Attending a conference, meeting, reunion or event that provides connections and options will help you form your plans. Change is hovering over you. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think before you act. Don't apply pressure to an explosive situation. Look for calmer alternatives using common sense and understanding to ensure your success. Personal gains are apparent if you are transparent and fair. Love and self-improvement are favored. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change in your routine will be uplifting. Activities that challenge and excite you will spark your interest in something you hadn't thought of doing before. An awakening will change how you view your future and your lifestyle. Don't settle for less. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let outside influences confuse you. Rely on your intelligence and ability to figure out your best path forward. It's your life; choose your terms and build your future. Put your best foot forward. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Step out of the line of fire. Refuse to let someone bait you into a conversation prematurely. Initiate positive domestic changes that will encourage the lifestyle you want. Hard work and dedication will help you surpass your expectations. Don't give up; get moving. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Remain focused and ready for action. Fine-tune your thoughts and plans, and be prepared to counter anything that gets in your way. Address your relationships, consider who is on your team and make adjustments that encourage better results. Trust and believe in yourself. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your emotions to yourself. Don't mix business with pleasure or leave yourself open for criticism or accusations. Stick to your plan, focus on getting ahead financially and change your lifestyle to ensure you reach your goal. Allow charm, knowledge and experience to guide you. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are competitive, entertaining and ambitious. You are opportunity-driven and responsive.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	1		5		6	
4	6		8	1		
2			3	6	7	4
				4	1	9
	3					
5	9		6	8	2	
1		5		3		4
						5
9			7			1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	8	1	9	5	4	3	6	7
5	3	7	8	6	2	1	4	9
6	4	9	3	1	7	5	2	8
3	1	6	7	9	8	4	5	2
8	2	5	6	4	3	7	9	1
7	9	4	1	2	5	8	3	6
1	5	2	4	7	6	9	8	3
4	7	8	2	3	9	6	1	5
9	6	3	5	8	1	2	7	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 4/17
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ERIC CARMEN (1949-2024) Solution: 10 letters

T O L O S E I R R E B P S A R
O O I H O L A S T D A N C E B
U D N E T E R P S T E L S S A
R P O I P L A Y B A B I B O S
F S I N G E R R H R D C E O S
L E T A U H Y N E A L O A L N
E L C B N S T S R A R N C H O
S E E A O O O A Y E R T H O I
Y G L N G P P T K R R R B O T
M N L D M T O A A A Y O O F A
Y A O O S N M T E Y T L Y E N
B S C O A T S I T R A H S A I
L O M S I T O D I E F O R M M
L L U H O W A R D M A R C Y O
A S M U B L A B E L I P S S N

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Albums, All By Myself, Almost Paradise, Amy, Artist, Baby, Band, Bass, Beach Boys, Bryson, Clayton, Collection, Composer, Control, Footloose, Hitmaker, Howard, Kathryn, Label, Last Dance, Let's Pretend, Lips, Los Angeles, Marcy, Nominations, Ohio, Piano, Play, Raspberries, Singer, Solo, Starr, Susan, To Die For, Tonight, Tour
Last Friday's Answer: Coast Guard
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NBA PLAY-IN GAME PREVIEW

West games on Tuesday. East games on Wednesday. Eliminations on Friday

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers are back in the play-in tournament. So is Stephen Curry, as he and Golden State will be fighting for their season. And Jimmy Butler returns as well, after this round last year was the first step on Miami's way to the NBA Finals.

The postseason—not technically the playoffs, yet—gets underway Tuesday with a pair of Western Conference matchups. The Lakers visit New Orleans with the winner securing the No. 7 seed and a series with defending champion Denver in Round 1. And then the Warriors go to Sacramento, an elimination game for both teams.

The Eastern Conference takes the stage Wednesday: Philadelphia plays host to Miami in a game to decide the No. 7 seed, and Atlanta visits Chicago with the season on the line for those clubs.

The Lakers forced a rematch of Sunday's regular-season finale with a 128-104 victory in New Orleans that knocked the Pelicans out of the sixth seed. Now the Lakers expect the Pelicans to respond as if this were Game 2 of a playoff series.

"You win that first game and a team has multiple days to kind of sit on that feeling, sit with that taste in their mouth of defeat, so they're going to be extremely ready for us and we have to come in with the same sense of urgency," said the 39-year-old James, who is playing in his 21st NBA season.

The Lakers and Heat showed that the play-in can be a springboard to bigger and better things last year; the Lakers reached the Western Conference finals, the Heat reached the NBA Finals.

"We're not the same group as last year," Butler said. "We—I—are very confident in the guys that we do have, and we know what we're capable of. We'll see what we got whenever the time gets here."

Golden State gets a short bus ride north for an elimination game against the Kings, on the same floor where the Warriors won a road Game 7 in Round 1 last season.

"We're happy to have a shot," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

So are the Kings, who had an up-and-down season—but have a chance to vanquish the memory of falling in the playoffs to the Warriors a year ago.

"Let's frickin' go get it," Sacramento coach Mike Brown said.

FORMAT

This is Year 4 of this format, and technically, Year 5



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) blocks a pass by Toronto Raptors guard Javon Freeman-Liberty (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, April 12, 2024, in Miami.

for the play-in tournament overall. A reminder of how the format works:

■ There are six games of the tournament. All six either have a team qualifying for the playoffs, or getting eliminated, or both.

■ No. 7 plays No. 8. The winner is in and gets the No. 7 seed for the playoffs. The loser has a second chance.

■ No. 9 plays No. 10. The loser's season is over. The winner moves on to visit the loser of the 7-vs.-8 game.

■ The remaining teams (the 7-8 loser and the 9-10 winner) play at the higher seed, with the winner getting the No. 8 seed in the playoffs. The loser's season ends.

HISTORY
2020

Western Conference: Portland beat Memphis 126-122 to clinch No. 8 seed.

2021

Eastern Conference: Bos-

ton beat Washington 118-100 to clinch No. 7 seed; Indiana beat Charlotte 144-117 in 9-10 game; Washington beat Indiana 142-115 to clinch No. 8 seed.

Western Conference: Lakers beat Golden State 103-100 to clinch No. 7 seed; Memphis beat San Antonio 100-96 in 9-10 game; Memphis beat Golden State 117-112 to clinch No. 8 seed.

2022

Eastern Conference: Brooklyn beat Cleveland 115-108 to clinch No. 7 seed; Atlanta beat Charlotte 132-103 in 9-10 game; Atlanta beat Cleveland 107-101 to clinch No. 8 seed.

Western Conference: Minnesota beat Los Angeles Clippers 109-104 to clinch No. 7 seed; New Orleans beat San Antonio 113-103 in 9-10 game; New Orleans beat Clippers 105-101 to clinch No. 8 seed.

2023

Eastern Conference: Atlanta beat Miami 116-105 to clinch

No. 7 seed; Chicago beat Toronto 109-105 in 9-10 game; Miami beat Chicago 102-91 to clinch No. 8 seed.

Western Conference: Lakers beat Minnesota 108-102 to clinch No. 7 seed; Oklahoma City beat New Orleans 123-118 in 9-10 game; Minnesota beat Oklahoma City 120-95 to clinch No. 8 seed.

MATCHUPS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
NO. 8 MIAMI (46-36)
AT NO. 7 PHILADELPHIA (47-35)

Wednesday, 7 p.m., ESPN
Season series: Split, 2-2
Play-in appearances: 2nd for Miami (2023), 1st for Philadelphia.

At stake: Winner plays New York in Game 1 on Saturday; loser plays elimination game Friday.

Outlook: The teams met on Christmas in Miami (Heat won 119-113) and three times since, though it should be noted that Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and

Miami's Jimmy Butler each played in only one of the four games between the clubs this season. ... When Kyle Lowry plays, his teams are 3-0 in the series this season—2-0 with him in a Philly uniform, 1-0 when was in a Miami uniform.

NO. 10 ATLANTA (36-46) AT NO. 9 CHICAGO (39-43)

Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., ESPN
Season series: Chicago, 2-1
Play-in appearances: 3rd for Atlanta (2022, 2023); 2nd for Chicago (2023).

At stake: Winner plays elimination game Friday; loser is eliminated.

Outlook: The Hawks are bidding to be the first team to win four play-in games. They're 3-0 in their past appearances in the tournament. ... DeMar DeRozan averaged 28.3 points for Chicago in the season series. ... Bogdan Bogdanovic averaged 23.3 points for Atlanta, on 46% shooting from 3-point range

vs. the Bulls. ... Trae Young appeared in two games in the series and the Bulls held him to 29% shooting.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
NO. 8 LA LAKERS (47-35) AT NO. 7 NEW ORLEANS (49-33)

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., TNT
Season series: Lakers, 3-1
Play-in appearances: 3rd for Lakers (2021, 2023); 3rd for New Orleans (2022, 2023).

At stake: Winner plays Denver in Game 1 on Sunday; loser plays elimination game Friday.

Outlook: A rematch of Sunday's regular-season finale for both clubs, one where the Lakers ensured a 49-win season wasn't enough to guarantee the Pelicans a playoff berth. ... The four highest-scoring players in the season series were all Lakers (LeBron James 28.3, Anthony Davis 21.5, Austin Reaves 21.0, D'Angelo Russell 21.0). ... Zion Williamson shot 58% vs. the Lakers in the four games.

NO. 10 GOLDEN STATE (46-36) AT NO. 9 SACRAMENTO (46-36)

Tuesday, 10 p.m., TNT
Season series: Split, 2-2
Play-in appearances: 2nd for Golden State (2021), 1st for Sacramento.

At stake: Winner plays elimination game Friday; loser is eliminated.

Outlook: The series was incredibly close—both of Sacramento's wins were by exactly one point, and Golden State's two wins vs. the Kings were by one and eight points. ... De'Aaron Fox averaged 32.3 points in the series for the Kings and Domantas Sabonis nearly averaged a triple-double (17.3 points, 11.3 rebounds, 9.5 assists). ... Stephen Curry averaged 31 points in the series for the Warriors. ... The Kings got to the foul line 113 times to Golden State's 82 in the four games.

Zion Williamson, at long last, set to suit up for the Pelicans in the NBA postseason

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—It's been nearly five years since Pelicans fans packing a downtown block party erupted as New Orleans officially selected Zion Williamson first overall in the 2019 NBA Draft.

On Tuesday night, Williamson is slated to play in a post-season game for the first time since he starring for Duke in the NCAA Tournament.

It'll be in the Western Conference play-in as No. 7 seed New Orleans hosts an eighth-seeded Los Angeles Lakers team featuring NBA all-time leading scorer LeBron James and the Pelicans' 2012 first overall draft choice, Anthony Davis.

"We're all extremely proud

that Z has this opportunity and that our team has this opportunity," Pelicans coach Willie Green said after practice Monday. "He's worked his tail off. ... His first time being able to experience this is a major step."

Williamson's first four years were defined mostly by teasing flashes of what he could accomplish with his unusual combination of size (listed at 6-foot-7, 284 pounds), skill and explosiveness. A series of injuries to his knee, hand, foot and hamstring limited him to 114 games.

Before this season, Williamson had played in more than 29 games only once in a season. That was his second pro campaign (2020-21), when he aver-

aged 27 points and 7.2 rebounds in 61 games. He broke his left ring finger near the end of that season and New Orleans missed the playoffs.

He missed his entire third pro season because of a foot fracture. The Pelicans made the play-in—and advanced to the first round of the playoffs—without him.

Williamson averaged 26 points in 29 games before a hamstring injury ended his fourth season. The Pelicans again made the Western Conference play-in, but were ousted in one game by the Oklahoma City Thunder.

This season, Williamson has played in a career-high

70 games, averaging a team-high 22.9 points. Coaches and teammates say his conditioning—not to mention on-court savvy—have improved since the beginning of the season, when he'd periodically be given games off.

"I wasn't where I needed to be," Williamson recounted recently. "I was stacking my days and getting where I needed to be. Over time, my coaches and my teammates, they saw and they trusted me, and they're continuously trusting me."

Green said he also has seen Williamson's game expand in ways that one might expect for a player whose grand total

of previous NBA experience amounted to less than one-and-a-half seasons' worth of games.

"I've seen significant growth from Z on and off the floor—his ability to continue to work at his conditioning, to stack his days, work on his game, his ability to be able to read the game throughout the course of the game, to see what teams are doing to him," Green said. "Sometimes they're packing the paint, he gets off the ball, tremendous passer."

"He's taken another step this year defensively, guarding the ball, being in the right positions, rebounding," Green continued. "So, definitely seeing a ton of growth in him."

Red Sox lose to Guardians on Patriots' Day, 6-0



BOSTON
(AP)—Will Brennan hit a

pinch-hit, two-run homer in the seventh inning and the Cleveland Guardians beat the Red Sox 6-0 on Monday in Boston's traditional Patriots' Day game.

José Ramirez and Gabriel Arias each added an RBI double for Cleveland, which has started 8-2 on the road.

Wearing their white jerseys with red letters that read "Boston" across the front, which was inspired by the first game back after the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013, the Red Sox were held to three hits.

Boston left fielder Tyler O'Neill had to leave the game in the eighth after colliding with third baseman Rafael Devers when the two were chasing a shallow pop up.

Making his season debut after starting on the injured list due to a viral illness, Guardians starter Xzavion Curry held the Red Sox to two singles over five innings.

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ORIOLES 7, TWINS 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Cedric Mullins saved a run with an exceptional diving catch in deep left-center, then homered and drove in three runs for Baltimore in a victory over Minnesota.

Jordan Westburg drove in two runs during his third career three-hit day, which came two days after his second. Ryan O'Hearn and Gunnar Henderson also homered for the Orioles, who have won five of their six series openers.

Dillon Tate (2-0) got Byron Buxton to pop out with runners on the corners to end the fifth and worked a clean sixth after Baltimore starter Cole Irvin allowed two runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Yennier Cano worked 1 2/3 scoreless innings and cleaned up Keegan Akin's seventh-inning jam, and Craig Kimbrel worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

RANGERS 1, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Michael Lorenzen pitched five spotless innings in his debut and three relievers completed a five-hit shutout as Texas topped Detroit.

Lorenzen gave up three hits and walked five while notching four strikeouts against his former team. Lorenzen represented the Tigers at the All-Star Game last season before he was traded to Philadelphia.

Jose Leclerc allowed one baserunner in two innings. David Robertson got the next three outs and Kirby Yates earned his first save as Texas finished its first shutout this season.

Jonah Heim had two hits and scored the only run.

GIANTS 4, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Jung Hoo Lee had two hits, including a tying single in the seventh in-



Cleveland Guardians' Will Brennan follows through on his two-run home run in front of Boston Red Sox catcher Reese McGuire during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 15, 2024, in Boston.

ning, and San Francisco overcame an early three-run deficit to beat Miami.

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Kyle Harrison (2-1) allowed three runs in six innings. The rookie left-hander gave up eight hits, walked one and struck out two.

Down 3-1, the Giants rallied with a three-run seventh against relievers George Soriano (0-1) and Andrew Nardi. Patrick Bailey's sacrifice fly made it 3-2 before consecutive RBI singles from Lee and pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores.

Tyler Rogers relieved Harrison and threw a scoreless seventh, and Ryan Walker got the first two outs in the eighth. Camilo Doval closed, throwing the final 1 1/3 innings for his second save.

ANGELS 7, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Mike Trout's two-run homer highlighted a five-run outburst in the eighth inning and the Los Angeles Angels beat Tampa Bay.

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Trout gave the Angels a 2-1 lead with his seventh homer, a 111.1 mph, 420-foot shot down the left-field line off Pat Maton (0-1). Matt Thaiss extended the Angels' lead to 5-1 with three-run double.

Taylor Ward added a two-run homer in the ninth inning off Kevin Kelly, extending the Los Angeles lead to 7-3. The 30-year-old outfielder has 19 RBIs this season.

Reliever Luis Garcia (1-0) worked an inning and earned the win.

Tampa Bay entered with the highest bullpen ERA in the majors at 6.23.

BLUE JAYS 3, YANKEES 1

TORONTO (AP)—Chris Bassitt pitched into the seventh inning to win his second straight start, Alejandro Kirk reached base three times and Toronto

beat New York.

Bassitt (2-2) allowed one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. The right-hander walked two and struck out five, ending his outing by fanning Gleyber Torres.

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Tim Mayza got two outs and former Yankees reliever Chad Green worked a 1-2-3 eighth. Yimi Garcia retired Juan Soto, Aaron Judge and Anthony Rizzo on flyballs in the ninth for his second save.

Kirk walked and scored in the second and hit an RBI double in the third. His lead-off single in the sixth extended his streak of reaching base safely to seven consecutive plate appearances. Kirk went 2 for 2 with two walks Sunday against Colorado.

METS 6, PIRATES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Bader drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for the second day in a row, hitting a two-run double off an angry Aroldis Chapman that lifted the New York Mets over Pittsburgh.

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New York overcame a 3-0, sixth-inning deficit and reached .500 for the first time this season. The Mets have won eight of 11 following an 0-5 start under first-year manager Carlos Mendoza.

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Chapman (0-1) was ejected by plate umpire Edwin Moscoso for arguing balls and strikes after Bader's double. The Mets stole three bases in the eighth against the Pirates, who have allowed 13 steals this season without throwing out a runner.

PHILLIES 2, ROCKIES 1, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Cristian Pache hit a walk-off single with one out in the 10th inning after Bryce Harper made a leaping, run-saving catch in the top of the frame to lift Philadelphia to a

2-1 win over Colorado.

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Colorado Rockies left-hander Kyle Freeland appeared to injure his right, non-throwing shoulder while being used as a pinch-runner in the ninth inning.

Harper also had an RBI single.

Seranthony Domínguez (1-0) pitched a 1-2-3 10th inning. Harper made a leaping grab of Elehuris Montero's liner that likely would've scored automatic runner Nolan Jones from second base.

ROYALS 2, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Seth Lugo pitched seven crisp innings, Vinnie Pasquantino homered and Kansas City beat Chicago.

Advertisement

Lugo (3-0) allowed four hits—all singles—in his third straight win. The right-hander struck out four and walked one.

Kansas City improved to 5-0 against Chicago already this season. The surprising Royals have allowed a major league-low 48 runs during their 11-6 start, and the White Sox have scored 34 runs so far—also the lowest total in the big leagues.

Andrew Benintendi had two of Chicago's four hits in its fifth consecutive loss. The White Sox were shut out for the sixth time during their 2-14 start.

PADRES 7, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jackson Merrill went 3 for 5 and singled home two runs during a six-run rally in the fifth inning as San Diego defeated Milwaukee.

The game featuring two heralded 20-year-old rookies with the first name of Jackson—San Diego's Merrill and Milwaukee's Chourio—included big performances from both.

Chourio went 2 for 4, homered and scored twice. The outfielder's two-run shot in the second inning gave the Brewers an early 3-0 lead.

The Padres trailed 3-1 be-

fore their unusual outburst in the fifth. The rally featured no extra-base hits, but did include six singles, a walk, a passed ball, catcher's interference and a pitch-clock violation.

After consecutive singles from Luis Campusano, Tyler Wade and Xander Bogaerts loaded the bases to start the inning, the Brewers had a conference on the mound and kept starting pitcher Joe Ross in the game.

Fernando Tatis Jr. grounded into a fielder's choice that brought home one run before Wade scored the tying run on a passed ball by catcher William Contreras.

BRAVES 6, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Austin Riley had three hits, including an RBI single in a four-run ninth inning as the Atlanta pulled away for a victory over the Houston.

Orlando Arcia and Marcell Ozuna also had RBI singles in the ninth to help break open a 2-1 game.

Adam Duvall drew a lead-off walk from Josh Hader and moved to second on a wild pitch before Arcia delivered a run-scoring single. Ronald Acuña Jr. and Ozzie Albies singled before Riley hit his RBI single. Hader exited after striking out Matt Olson.

Ozuna added another RBI single, and Michael Harris II drove in a run with a fielder's choice to make it 6-1.

Alex Bregman hit an RBI single for Houston in the first, but the Braves took the lead with two runs in the second. Travis d'Arnaud scored on an errant throw by shortstop Jeremy Peña, and Albies was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to score Jarred Kelenic.

CARDINALS 3, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Sonny Gray struck out six and didn't walk a batter over six scoreless innings to beat his

former club, and Willson Contreras doubled twice and drove in a run for St. Louis in their win against the Oakland.

Nolan Arenado hit an RBI single in the first to stake Gray (2-0) to an early lead against an Oakland team that had won three of four and drew a crowd of 5,508.

Esteury Ruiz was called up by Oakland shortly before first pitch from Triple-A Las Vegas and hit a pinch homer in the eighth.

MARINERS 9, REDS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Jorge Polanco and Mitch Haniger homered, and Seattle's slumping offense produced a season high in runs as the Mariners beat Cincinnati.

The Mariners had their highest scoring game since August 26, 2023, when they scored 13 times against the Kansas City Royals. Seattle entered Monday's game batting .204.

George Kirby (2-2) returned to form for Seattle, allowing two runs on five hits with six strikeouts and no walks in six innings. The 26-year-old right-hander had yielded 13 runs over his last 7 1/3 innings pitched.

NATIONALS 6, DODGERS 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luis García Jr. hit a three-run homer, his first of the season, CJ Abrams also went deep and Washington defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers.

García went opposite field with two outs in the fifth inning against Tyler Glasnow (3-1), who issued a two-out walk to Joey Gallo one batter before.

Washington starter Mitchell Parker (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings during his major league debut. The left-hander struck out four and walked none after getting called up earlier in the day from Triple-A Rochester.

Kyle Finnegan pitched the ninth to earn his sixth save.

CUBS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2, 11 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—Nico Hoerner scored the tying run from second base on a wild pitch in the ninth inning, then delivered the go-ahead single in the 11th as the Chicago rallied past Arizona.

Michael Busch homered for the Cubs leading off the second on an 0-2 pitch from Merrill Kelly. It was the rookie's sixth of the season and fifth straight game with a home run, tying the franchise record.

Busch walked in the 11th and Garrett Cooper singled, moving automatic runner Nick Madrigal to third against Kevin Jarvis (0-1) and loading the bases. Hoerner followed with a single to right field, advancing all three runners one base.

Clark taken No. 1 in by the Indiana Fever, as expected



NEW YORK (AP)—Caitlin Clark admitted she was a bit nervous before being chosen with the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft by the Indiana Fever, even though it was no surprise.

"I dreamed of this moment since I was in second grade, and it's taken a lot of hard work, a lot of ups and downs, but more than anything, just trying to soak it in," Clark said.

The former Iowa star became a household name among basketball fans during her record-breaking college career, and she will now try and help revive the Indiana franchise along with last season's No. 1 pick, Aliyah Boston, who previously played with Clark on a USA Basketball Under-19 team.

"Obviously going to an organization that has, in my eyes, one of the best post players in the entire world," Clark said. "My point guard eyes just light up at that. And obviously, Aliyah has been one of my teammates before. I'm excited. I can't wait."

The Fever taking Clark had been a foregone conclusion since she announced on Feb.



Iowa's Caitlin Clark, left, poses for a photo with WNBA commissioner Cathy Engelbert, right, after being selected first overall by the Indiana Fever during the first round of the WNBA basketball draft, Monday, April 15, 2024, in New York.

29 she would turn pro. Nearly 17,000 tickets were claimed to watch the draft at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, home to the Fever and the NBA's Indiana Pacers.

Clark has helped bring millions of fans to the women's game with her signature shots from the midcourt logo and

passing ability. The NCAA's all-time scoring leader was a big reason why a record 18.9 million viewers tuned in to the national championship game, which Iowa lost to unbeaten South Carolina. The Hawkeyes were also the national runners-up to LSU a year earlier.

It's been a whirlwind few

weeks for Clark. After the title game, she flew to Los Angeles to receive the John R. Wooden Award and then came to New York for an appearance on "Saturday Night Live."

"I think obviously the course of the last few weeks has been pretty insane in my life, the last two months playing basketball

as long as I possibly could in my college career," Clark said. "I think the biggest thing is I'm just very lucky to be in this moment, and all these opportunities and these things, they're once in a lifetime."

Clark, who wore a white Prada jacket and skirt, hugged her parents and brothers and Iowa coach Lisa Bluder after she was drafted.

The draft was held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in front of 1,000 fans, who bought all the tickets within 15 minutes of them going on sale a few months ago.

Los Angeles chose Stanford's Cameron Brink at No.

2. She'll get to stay in California and gives the Sparks a two-way player.

"When they called my name, a huge wave of emotions hit me," Brink said. "I saw my mom tearing up and my dad and it hit home."

A prolific scorer, Brink was also the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year. The Sparks needed to replace franchise player Nneka Ogumike, who left for Seattle in free agency. Brink's godmother, Sonya Curry, is the mother of Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry.

"I FaceTimed Steph five minutes before the show started and he said have fun with it," Brink said. "He can share so much great advice since he's been through this. Make stuff like this fun as it can be stressed."

Chicago had the third pick and chose South Carolina's Kamilla Cardoso before the Sparks were on the clock again and selected Tennessee's Rickea Jackson.

Cardoso had a busy week, helping the Gamecocks win the national championship to complete an undefeated season. She took part in the team's championship parade on Sunday before traveling to New York.

Dallas took Ohio State guard Jaci Sheldon with the fifth pick. Washington drafted Aaliyah Edwards of UConn sixth before Chicago took LSU's Angel Reese at No. 7, pairing her with Cardoso.

"She's a great player and I'm a great player. Nobody's going to get no rebounds on us," the 6-foot-7 Cardoso said, laughing.

BEST

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forts in the first half, as De Guzman went on a shooting spree early on.

De Guzman shot 8 straight points, then went on a tear and shot 8 straight more points. However, Kintz and team led at the end of the first half, 49-40.

Kintz then went on a tear of his own—this time from downtown and fired nine points in between his field goals. It was pretty close for both teams throughout the second half, but Longshot had the upper hand and drowned out Napa's efforts with a 7-point win, 91-84.

Kintz finished with a game-leading 36 points, followed by Duncan Laxa's 15 markers and Sean Apasan's 14. De Guzman's efforts netted him 29 markers, while Irvin Villarin contributed 15 and Aldrich Castillo shot 12.

In the quarterfinals, Best Deal of Bracket A will face off against Yuman, while Longshot of Bracket B will take on Tax Pro/Triple L.

Last night, Elite Force went up against La Mesa Kusina and Savemore challenged Unity Trade.

Top seeds in Bracket A, Choju and Elite Builders, and top seeds in Bracket B, Kagbros and TanHoldings await the winners of the quarterfinals.

Best Deal 93 — Medina 28, Victoria 26, Rueda 16, Baul 7,

Palima 5, D. Tagle 5, M. Tagle 3. **Bourbon Bar & Cafe 82** — Manansala 22, Mendoza 13, Broncano 13, Esmores 12, Lacanilao 6, Binuya 6, Leightley 4, Jose 3, Boringot 3.

Scoring by halves: 46-42, 93-82.

Longshot 91 — Kintz 36, Laxa 15, Apasan 14, Malonzo 9, Formales 9, Echavez 8.

Napa Auto Parts 84 — De Guzman 29, Villarin 15, Castillo 12, Tibayan 12, Catalla 8, Montano 5, De Jesus 2, Ege 1.

Scoring by halves: 49-40, 91-84.



Best Deal poses for a team photo during the opening ceremony of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.



Longshot poses for a team photo during the opening ceremony of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

FALCONS

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The ceremonial first pitch of the season was made by Sports Hall of Famer and many time SBL (and precursor Saipan Major League) champion manager Tony

Rogolifoi and before the teams took the diamond, an awards ceremony was held to award the winners of the 2023 season.

Catch the action at 6:30pm from Monday through Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

MHS

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talas, Lowell Lumauag, and K.C. Nuyles.

GCA's roster includes Akira Ota, Briston Jones, Tristan Raho, Tyran Joe Saures, Julian Taitano, Jiahao Yang, Vidal Camacho, Jiahang Wu, Ayden Yumul, Jerry Zhao, Tom Luo, Maximus Taitano, and Brycen Raymundo.

ACS is made up of John Chen, Caleb Cui, Michael Ma, Peter Peng, Jacob Wang, Stanley Zhang, David Zhao, Aaron Zheng, and Samuel Zhu.

Last Thursday's other results saw Saipan International School defeat Mount Carmel School, 21-11, 21-14; GCA take down Kagman High School, 21-15, 25-23; SIS II

rout MCS II, 22-20, 21-11; MHS III win two close sets against KHS II, 21-19, 22-20; and MHS II pummeled Agape Christian School II, 21-3, 21-18.

In other results last April 9, KHS II beat MCS II, 21-18, 22-20; MHS II defeated sister team MHS III, 21-16, 21-13; Saipan Southern High School II won in three tough sets against ACS II, 17-21, 21-16; 15-9; MCS also won in an extra set against KHS, 18-21, 21-16; 15-13; and SSHS held on to win against ACS, 21-18, 18-21, 15-9.

The season will run through May, with the championship series set for May 9, 10, and 11.

Results of last night's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



West games on Tuesday. East games on Wednesday. Eliminations on Friday.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Clark taken No. 1 in by the Indiana Fever, as expected.

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16 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Falcons shoot down Cardinals, 10-8

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 2024 Saipan Baseball League season started off with a bang and an upset as the high-flying Falcons shot down defending champions Cardinals, 10-8, in extra innings during a thrilling opening day last Monday at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Baseball Field.

The fighting Falcons and the relentless Cardinals set an explosive tone for the season as serious firepower boomed off just two innings into the game.



The Falcons struck first in the first innings with two runs scored by A.J. Evangelista and Ian Norita, but the Cardinals retaliated quickly in the second.

After being shutout in the first by Falcons’ pitcher I.J. Teigita, the Cardinals’ Jerald Cabrera

got on base after a single and was in perfect position for Eli Aghenbaugh who sent one to the moon to tie it up, 2-2.

Poland Masaharu and Pat Tenorio put some traffic on the bases again and the timing was just perfect once more as leadoff batter Tony Tenorio followed Aughenbaugh’s footstep to take the lead, 5-2.

The Falcons’ pitching staff was reeling but that didn’t stop



LEIGH GASES
Falcons pitcher I.J. Teigita throws to home plate as Cardinals' Nokki Saralu gets a head start to second base during the season opener of the 2024 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Baseball Field last Monday.

MHS boys win 2 straight v-ball games

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Defending champions Marianas High School Dolphins are off to a roaring start with two straight wins in the NMIVA-Public School

The Dolphins etched their first win of the season against the Grace Christian Academy Eagles and won in twin sets, 21-10, 21-10, last April 9. MHS’ caliber of play, despite a somewhat new team was still topnotch and was evident that they put in the

work during the offseason.

It was a swift matchup for their first game of the season and they carried their momentum into their second game last Thursday.



Although last season’s runner-up, Agape Christian School Torchbearers became once again a formidable opponent in their game, the Dolphins swam away with their second victory in

as many games in three tough sets, 21-18, 21-23, 15-5.

In the Dolphins roster are Jerome Manzon, Nehemiah Coleman, Yeshaiiah Coleman, Kyle Sang Hyun Moon, Mokyang Kim, Juruel Mag-

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JANIY LIU MOHAMMED

A Marianas High School player goes for a kill over Grace Christian Academy defenders during MHS’ first win of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

them from getting back into fighting form on the mound. They went on to shutout the Cardinals from the third to the sixth inning, which gave their offense time to do some catch up work.

In the fifth, the Falcons

scored three to tie it up, 5-5, after the Norita family made up of Tonchu, Ian, and Jonathan rounded the bases.

Both teams were tied once again, 6-6 in the seventh, and the game was bound for extras.

The Falcons’ determination and hustle on the bases proved pivotal as they scored four runs at the top of the eight for a little breathing room with the Cardinals as the home team.

The Cardinals planned for a

rally as they scored two runs in, but they came up shy of tying it up and forcing another inning as Falcons pitcher R.J. Renguul finished them off to clinch the first win of the season.

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Best Deal, Longshot advance in Legends playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Best Deal and Longshot advanced in the playoffs of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 after they won their games last Sunday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Best Deal had the best hand in their game against Bourbon Bar & Cafe and won, 93-82.

A slew of multiple back-to-back trips to the free throw line in the last minutes of the game cemented Best Deal’s lead and eventual win. Crunch time saw a desperate Bourbon Bar & Cafe crew try to maintain possession as much as they could, but it backfired as Best Deal



LEIGH GASES

Longshots’ Irvin Malonzo sets up the play during one of their games in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

sank in all their free throws.

The first half was a seesaw battle between two strong teams, with Best Deal ahead of Bourbon by just 4 points, 46-42.

Best Deal’s shots fired from

the 3-point line from the start of the second half was the difference-maker as the once narrow gap ballooned uncontrollably. Best Deal sank five 3-pointers to get the second

half going and also allowed fast break plays in between.

They took their momentum with them until the very end as all Bourbon could do was play catch up.

Best Deal’s Jeter Medina led the team with a game-high 28 markers, followed by Jeffrey Victoria’s 26, and Ronald Rueda’s 16.

For Bourbon, J.P. Manan-sala was the leading scorer with 22 points, while Jose Broncano and Richard Mendoza put up 13 each.

In the nightcap, Longshot eliminated Napa Auto Parts, 91-84.

Longshot’s James Kintz was a force to be reckoned with on the courts once again and shouldered the brunt of the teams’ points. Kintz mirrored Napa’s Jorge De Guzman’s efforts in the first half, as De Gu-

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